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COUNTRY USSR

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SUBJECT Effects Of Ruble Reform And Abolition  
Of Rationing

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1. The ruble reform and the abolition of rationing last December has resulted in a noticeable influx of new industrial workers. Soviet economists seem to be satisfied that stabilization of the ruble heightened the importance of wages and induced that section of the urban population which temporarily had no part in public labor to go to work.
2. New manpower reserves thus made available for industrial employment are being drawn from the urban population rather than the rural areas. The higher wages offered for industrial work induce many to change employment and the present trend is to seek new employment in heavy industry where highest wages are paid and opportunities to acquire professional skill are present. Heretofore Soviet industry drew on the surplus rural population to meet growing manpower needs of developing industrialized economy. Many employment officials in Soviet Ministries, following traditional policy, are now under Soviet press criticism for neglecting to take into account the new possibility of recruiting workers from the urban population.
3. The ruble reform resulted in an increase of purchasing power of the domestic currency; also resulted in reduction of labor turnover and the increase of labor productivity. This is especially so where output is now based on progressive piece work payment scales.

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